

A N
E S S A Y

Humbly offer'd, for
An Act of Parliament

To prevent
Capital Crimes,

A N D
The Loss of many Lives;

A N D T O
Promote a desirable Improvement

A N D
Blessing in the Nation.

By *GEORGE OLLYFFE*, M. A.

THE SECOND EDITION.

L O N D O N,

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A N
E S S A Y

Humbly Offer'd

To prevent Capital Crimes, &c.



Whereas such is the deplorable Infatuation of an unexpressible Number thro' the Nation, amongst the idle, vagrant and loose Tribe, that they are lost to every valuable Principle, to all Sense and Thought of Obligation and Duty both to God and Man, and scruple no Mischief either with regard to Mens Persons or Properties, wheresoever they imagine they may extort any Prize, and yet escape the Lash of present Justice: And whereas notwithstanding the Infamy and Misery attending and ensuing Executions, they are so proof against all the Terrors thereof, as still to expose themselves to

the utmost Danger of meeting with the like fatal end as others before ; Whereas withal it must be acknowledged very shocking to see so many Lives taken away, as since the late and other Sessions, which if timely restrained might have been put into a way, thro' the Divine Influence, of attaining and promoting the most extensive and lasting Welfare, and yet these abandon'd Miscreants, as they are unmoved at the Views of all the Good that might be attainable by an happy Regulation and Preservation of such Lives, so they will take no Warning from all their executed Brethren, daring to defy the most numerous Threatnings of Punishment, and with the most audacious and unexampled Insolence, projecting and pursuing all the vilest Measures that Hell can suggest, as particularly in the late Attempts of our shameless Incendiaries ; Whereas likewise it is a very piercing Lamentation that the inoffensive, wise, and useful part of Mankind, how much soever they are entitled to Protection from all illegal Violence and Molestation, and have the Benefit as of the greatest Encouragement to promote the Seizing such as basely molest and injure, so of the most watchful Administration wherever they are seized, and what Expence or Trouble soever they are at for Defence, yet know not whether travelling Abroad, or walking in the

the Streets, or dealing in their Shops, or resting in their Beds, they may be out of Danger from these Monsters; and whereas notwithstanding the great Obligations this Nation is under to our wise Legislature, for their particular Care in several Ages to provide suitable Laws for the suppression of the most mischievous Measures, according as they were or are newly invented or repeated by such Hands, and with what Moderation soever they have acted in allotting the several Punishments, as to be as sparing as possible of Criminals Lives, and as tender even in the greatest Executions as can be consistent with the loss of Life, without enacting greater Extremity of Severity therein, which other Nations have been forced to have recourse to; yet 'tis long visible how much such Wisdom and Moderation has been trampled upon, and those wretched Creatures resolve at all Hazards of Life to run into the most capital Crimes, that they force our kind and gracious Government to all the Grief and Pain of ordering their Execution; All which is yet so far from being sufficient to melt or awe their stupify'd Minds, that they rather every Age and Year grow more numerous and desperate; 'tis humbly conceived it may be highly desirable that there may be some Method taken, as may yet effectually curb such an ungoverned Race.

Now

Now there seems to be but two ways that can under God produce this happy Effect; the one is, by adding, where there be the greatest Crimes, greater Severity in the Execution; the other by ordering and disposing of such as have begun or are liable to offend, before they are involved in the greatest Guilt.

As to a greater Severity of Execution, it may be clamour'd against by some of the more soft Tempers, as, what may be more severe than Death, and what greater Satisfaction can be given to the Justice of the Law, and the Persons offended, than by the Criminals losing their Lives: 'Tis own'd that if the occasion of such Punishment had been prevented, it had been a thousand times more Satisfaction; yet in an irreparable State nothing more than Death can be expected or inflicted in this World: But 'tis well known there are some kinds of Death more sharp and terrifying than others. As there have been in every Nation, thro' the various Ages of Mankind, different Methods of Execution; so it has been always judged in the use of the *Sword* of Justice for the *Terror of evil Doers*, the particular manner of its Application has been left to Man's Wisdom to determine, as may best answer the end thereof. And since with us no Punishment is first settled without the whole Legislative Power, and the People in
general

general as represented in Parliament, as well as the Royal Power, are all concern'd in appointing divers kinds of Punishment, whether they are more or less severe, none can say there is any Thing done without the Nations own Consent and Act; and who then can reasonably disapprove what they themselves by their own Representatives may ordain, according as they find occasion.———

—In the quick dispatch of Mens Lives, either by hanging, burning, or shooting, whereby the Sensation of the Torture is in an instant extinguished, 'tis too often seen how little concern or fear is produced even at the very time of Execution; when such as are Strangers to the Terror of future Judgment, think the whole of such Punishment only a short stroke, which they are no sooner under, but they are at the end of: When this therefore, tho' terrible enough beyond Expression to all that have the least Thought and Grace, to make such fear the least beginnings of Offence, which might endanger their being given over to such a fatal end as has innumerable startling Horrors besides the direful after-reckoning, yet is esteem'd so slight and unterrifying amongst this hardned Crew; an Execution that is attended with more lasting Torment, may strike a far greater Awe, much to lessen, if not to put a stop to, their shameless Crimes. The ancient Method of
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hanging such alive on Gibbets till starved
 to Death, was so tedious and disturbing
 wheresoever within common hearing, that
 tho' doubtless it could not fail of raising
 a suitable Terror, yet the tender and
 innocent part of Mankind not being able
 to bear, it was thought requisite to lay
 aside. But there is a noted Punishment
 so much in vogue abroad which is of the
 greatest Service to restrain such Hands; and
 that is, breaking upon the Wheel; by which
 the Criminals run through ten thousand
 thousand of the most exquisite Agonies, as
 there are Moments in the several hours and
 days during the unconceivable Torture of
 their bruised, broken, and disjointed Limbs
 to the last Period. Or there is another
 way which could not but make the most
 daring Spirit fearful of running into the
 danger of feeling the Severity thereof;
 and that is, (instead of dispatching them
 by a Cord about their Neck, &c.) by
 twisting a little Cord hard about their
 Arms or Legs, which would particularly
 affect the Nerves and Sinews and the
 more sensible Parts to produce the keenest
 Anguish; under which, as there would
 be some time before they will expire,
 they will suffer the Pain of many Deaths
 in one: With this if they were fixed on
 some Gibbet at some little distance of
 about ten or twenty Poles from those
 Roads where now are the usual places of
 Exe-

Execution, that their Cries may not much disturb the common Passengers, and yet not so far out of hearing, but that they may a little reach the Ears of their offending Brethren at their passing by, in order to remind them of the dismal end they are like to come unto, what Heart, how ill soever inclined, would not be forc'd to dread any criminal Steps; especially if withal there be a Guard set to prevent all Attempt of Relief, and the Persons thus Executed be fastned with such hardned Iron Chains and Locks as no File or other Instrument may reach, and the Place where the Cords are twisted be covered with hardned Iron Plates or Boxes clasp'd and lock'd together as may be irremovable, and the Timber be-plated over as none may be capable of cutting down. Or if they be set on a Gibbet in the like manner with their Limbs broken, which may be soonest done, it would as certainly cause the like lingring and terrifying Torment. Or were they chained down to a Stake or Iron Crow, and a Fire made at some little distance round them, very slowly to burn them to Death; and should there be a very considerable Penalty enacted for such as would attempt to prevent the Horror, by being accessory to some dark Method of hastening their End under such Punishment; as none

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could be insensible, how very startling it would be where unallay'd with the least hope of a speedy dispatch ; so none would be under the Temptation of imbruing their Hands in their Brethrens Blood, under pretence of Kindness, where there could be no Commission ; and the Criminals themselves, when upon the Edge of Eternity, may be sufficiently warn'd against the Dangers of swelling their future Account by conspiring their own Execution. —————

—If such Methods may be censured as too severe; it may be considered whether they may not have the greatest use; when if they sufficiently terrify, the happy End is answered, by there being none or very few capital Crimes committed, and no such Severity endured: And if instead of a thousand Lives now cut off in the common way of Execution, there may not be near a twentieth part of the Number according to this Scheme, tho' here and there a Miscreant may so severely suffer where nothing is too sharp for their incorrigible Spirits, yet how many hundreds of precious Lives would be hereby preserved: That tho' it may be a Severity to such as are resolved to forfeit all right to Compassion, yet what a thousand-fold Mercy to others: A Mercy beyond compare to those who are inclined to pursue this vile Life, who in the View of such startling Punishment
before

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before their Eyes would be almost compell'd to think and fear a little, whether they will or no; and if duly wrought upon by these strong Springs of fear, tho' they may not at first take up with a Life of Innocence and Industry upon choice, yet seeing without such Life there can be no help or safety, no Sustainance for themselves or Families, and having no Time or Substance lavishly to abuse, they will find themselves obliged in many respects to starve their Vices for want of Supplies by their old Enterprises; and being kept back from their bewitching Course and Company, may be in a way, thro' God's Mercy, more to consider and attend the amiable Paths of Vertue, and thereby to arrive to some hopeful Views; and what a Mercy may hereby accrue to their Families, when by being deterr'd from their enormous Crimes, instead of being cut off by Justice in the midst of their days from an Opportunity to assist their Families, instead of intailing the blackest Blot and Curse upon them, by their own infamous Life and Death, they may have the Favour under God of many years to be the Instruments of numberless Joys in their behalf: And what a Mercy to the Neighbourhood and Kingdom, when unannoy'd with the alarms, fears, and sufferings of Mischief, and when they may have the Satisfaction of various Services and Improve-

ments from their honest Labours. ———
 —Or should such terrifying Punishments be distasted, notwithstanding the fore-mentioned Necessity and Use; at least it may be humbly desired that one or other of them be Enacted for the Crimes of the first Magnitude, as that of Murther, firing of Houses, &c. which there would be a Necessity of a ten-fold restraint from, the fears whereof have given People so many aking Thoughts throughout the Nation; especially when such desperate Creatures are too ready to take to the extremest Measures of Cruelty, if yet unawed by the abovenamed Terrors.

And for as much as the more gentle Methods of punishing our petty Criminals by Transportation, are found to be so miserably abused, that instead of the excellent Law being happily answered, by draining the Nation of its offensive Rubbish, without taking away their Lives, greater Numbers still gather; and whereas 'tis thought an abuse of the Law is owing in a great Measure to their hopes of getting a return unobserved, and continuing after their return in disguise unseized, notwithstanding the certainty of Death by the Law if discovered; and for as much as the Untransported Criminals that suffer smaller Punishments here at home, when set at Liberty soon return to their old Life, in hopes that, if again taken, they shall not

not be remembred or known, and may come off as easily as they did before, and thereupon are still led on to greater Mischief; 'tis earnestly wish'd that there might be a Mark given both to those that are sent abroad, and those that are punished at home, that they may be infallibly known when they are again seiz'd: And since the old way of marking Criminals, by burning in the Hand or Face, has been so easily tore or cut out as not to be thoroughly after discern'd, if it was ordered that they should have a slit burnt by an hot pair of Shears in one of their Ears, such Mark can never be removed: And that the Transported and Untransported may be distinguished from each other, there may be a slit in the right Ear for one, and in the left Ear for the other: This, as undefaceable a Mark of Distinction as it would be, to answer the purposes of Terror beyond the Marks before used, yet would not be a Bar to the Services of such upon a Supposition of their being after reclaimed, being not so much in sight as the other; and would thereupon give no Occasion of the least cruel abuse, especially where, as mention'd before, they would be so particularly restrained therefrom.

Yet as necessary as these Punishments may be in various Cases, since it would be thought tedious to apply them in every particular; nothing would be of greater

greater service to answer several Difficulties than a contrivance of some very laborious Work, as in a neighbour Nation; such as may defray the expence of Attendance and Confinement, and yet promote the most sharp and lasting Terror, if there may be Commission given to some very watchful Inspectors to drive them on in their Work with the utmost Severity, in case of the least loytering, and an order for the Criminals to continue unreleased therefrom, according to the Malignity of their Crimes.

Yet whilst notwithstanding all the Punishment that can be contrived, till there be some effectual stop put to the Vagrancy of our common Beggars, and other pretended compassionate Travelers, there will be still a Nursery of the vilest Hands, who having no Edge for Work, and yet having many craving undisciplined Desires, and nothing wherewithal to satisfy them, will be in no small Danger of breaking thro' many Ties and Terrors; and whilst, notwithstanding divers Laws made to confine them, the Nation is as much gall'd with them as ever; If there can't be made room for them in Places that may be procured at home for the most punishing Work of Criminals, there is a very feasible way to clear the Nation of them; that is, by ordering that such as are not decrepit and decayed, who are able to
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Work, should be Transported to our Plantations, and sold for Slaves to pay their freight, or sent to be chained down to work in some Gallies for a Guard of our Seas and Forts; and that such should be liable to some severe Punishment if they return without a Licence; and that yet to prevent Hardships, they should have a full Year's Warning to look out for suitable Places and Business, if unwilling to be so treated: and that all others that are helpless should be obliged to repair to the Parishes whereunto they belong, upon pain of being punished very severely according to some Punishment that may be appointed; and that those of them who belong to no particular Place, should have some County-House prepared for their Reception; which seems to be much more easy and practicable, than by dividing them in the several Parishes of the County, according to the proportion of the Substance of each Parish, where often there are different degrees of Burden already upon their Hands, that it would be very difficult to compute their Abilities, and there may be different degrees of Partiality in the Representation thereof, and the proportions of their Number may be very different from that of their Substance, upon which yet various degrees of their Charity may depend. —————

—And that such as are at a distance
from

from home, upon their arrival from Sea, or upon their being engaged in necessary Business at any remote Place, or such as are call'd to some pretended Business from home, may not make a Trade of Stroling; it may be thought necessary to enjoin their having a Certificate with a Government-Stamp receivable for a Shilling, denoting the Time when they first moved, the Place whence they came, and whither they go, under pain of Transportation, if they dare to ask without a Certificate, or notoriously to trespass against the Note of the time and place specify'd in the Certificate, or of Death it self if they are found to Counterfeit it. — — — — —

—Yet were it possible that some weak and fearful Spirits should disrelish a check of such Vagrancy, with regard either to one or other of the begging and travelling Number, thinking that the more Objects fall in their way, the more will be renewed the necessary Exercise of their Charity; far be it from me to suggest that which may clip or hinder any good and useful Offices in relieving: But will there not be Objects enough even beyond Number, at home and abroad, after all the Fences and Drains that could be made according to the fore-cited Scheme, for the most enlarged Hearts and Circumstances to manifest the most frequent and useful Bounty, without calling in the Vermin to eat the Bread

Bread that should be apply'd another way; can it be any Benefit or Duty to encourage the Droans and Vipers to suck and poyson, to pillage and deface our Constitution; to nurse up a Seminary for the Highways and Gallows, which if happily obliged to think and strive suitably to answer the end of their Being, may rather be copartners with the better part of Mankind, in assisting and supporting others that are unable to help themselves; in easing the Burthen that is universally complain'd to lye too heavy already, rather than by encreasing it to make it unsupportable: would it not be the greatest kindness to such as are able to Work, to make their begging-Trade so painful and unbeneficial, that they could not without the utmost Difficulty and Danger attain the least return, that they may be driven to take Sanctuary under some honest Employ. So far is Man from being under an Obligation to scatter his Favours at all Adventures, that it is a necessary part of Wisdom to consider the use thereof; to endeavour to do all the real Service that can be in the World, and not to minister to Peoples Vices; not by any unseasonable Countenance to give an handle for the waste and misapplication of precious Time and Strength, which might be usefully employed. So far are these miserable Creatures from being entitl'd to others

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relief

relief in the Support of their unnecessary Sloth, where capable of Service, that 'tis enjoy'd if *any will not Work*, when they can and may, *neither should they eat*: And if they can't be prevail'd with by all the Measures, rough and smooth, that may be here used, to bind them to some agreeable Diligence for their Subsistence, they will have no reason to complain if banished where they will be constrained thereto.

And that a further part of this Nation's Burthen among the other Poor, who have not given into the Principles and Steps of those abovementioned, may be lightned; and that such may not, thro' defect of Employment, and thro' their slender Support, be seduced to any Thing that is injurious; there may be a singular Help by an Order to appropriate and improve the divers waste and improveable Parts that lay in common belonging to many Parishes: by which an acre of Ground that may not be worth *per annum twenty pence*, or little more than so many *Farthings*, may be worth as many *Shillings*; and the Places thereunto belonging may be enabled to employ and suitably to reward innumerable Hands that lay so hard upon them; and the fulness of the Business would be more beneficial both in the present and divers after-Generations, than the pretended Profit in that little share that
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some hope to reap from the desert and barren Ground: Especially if withal there be to every Cottager in such places, and others in their respective Circumstances, that are known to make some small Benefit therefrom, allotted a proportionable share thereof: In which yet an Enclosure may not be universally approved, and therefore is here past over as to the various disputes on each side concerning the Benefit to the Poor from the common Field or enclosed Ground: But that which is here wished for, is the bare Appropriation to some particular Possessors, that there might be Permission for the greatest Employment and Improvement. If it may be said, there may be other Poor after arising, who thro' a total Appropriation of such Wastes in the present or next Age, would one Day miss of the like property; yet still as there will be ever the more Work where there is more Land to Manure, here would be a Foundation for the more continued useful returns: And whatsoever little Spring of good there may be one way, yet as it may be far over-ballanced by the other, the rule ever holds, that the least Good is not to exclude the greatest. Or should there be a dependance of some after-Poor upon the Notion of help from such waste places without suitable Work, the more Inducement there would be to such idle

Dreamers to aim at Settlements and multiplication in Parishes, the more to encrease their Burthen. Or should there be the least demur of Injury to any, 'tis but trying one half of the large Commons and other waste Tracts, and leaving a remainder for casual Uses after arising. Or should it be imagined that such Improvement, by supplying the Nation with a larger Stock, would sink the Value of other Lands, and the product thereof; it may be humbly ask'd, whether, without some wasting Judgment by War or Pestilence, there is not in every Age an encrease of Number requiring a proportionable vent of Improvements; and whether there may not be such Exportation encouraged as may ballance the Additions which may arise therefrom; and who may not earnestly hope, that it might be universally own'd, that Possessions are only a Loan from the Supream Founder, as for the necessary Accommodations of the Persons entrusted therewith, and their nearest Relatives and Dependants; so for the Benefit of the Community, and its real Objects of Compassion, who if never so sincerely desirous and careful to strive for an agreeable Sustenance, must, if unconsidered, fall short in the attainment thereof. — — — — —

— And if there may be to this Scheme further added an Encouragement for many indigent Families to be convey'd to his Majesties

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Territories abroad, by their receiving for a Term of Years a few unimproved Acres, to induce them to become Tenants to the Crown in the Improvement of others, how many poor Creatures may this Nation be drain'd of, how much Trade may be hereby promoted, and what Revenue to the Crown where is now no return.

And that no Persons of a dark Character might skulk about unobserved, thro' the least unactive Pity, or neglect of Examination; it may be presumed that nothing could more conduce to the Discovery and removal of such, than an exprefs Order that the Vestry of every Parish, or some select Committee thereof, should at frequent Times of their Meeting, without fail, proceed with the most firm and impartial Resolution, to enquire after every suspected Person about the Neighbourhood; and be supplied with Warrants for the sending them away, either to some very servile Employ abroad, or in our own Country, upon their giving no satisfactory Account of the Means whereby they are supported.

Yet were Millions of Restraints and Employments directed to bind each Person of the forecited Denominations to some agreeable Care for Man's common Safety and Felicity, if their Principles are left unreclaim'd, still one must despair of the most happy Success. 'Tis a noted complaint of such as have been
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at the last Point of Execution, who then could be under very little Temptation to speak out any Thing but their real Experience, that the great Source of the Corruption of their Principles has been the Profanation of the Lord's Day: and those who have observed what pernicious Desires and Measures they are in Judgment abandon'd to, who go on unrestrained in breaking thro' the Obligations of that sacred Time, that is sequestred for divine Uses, would be glad to find some remedy to reach the Foundation of such Mischief. Now that which would go a great way to prevent an abuse of such Time, and the ill Effects ensuing, is the keeping true to some publick Service: Since with God's Mercy, where there is a due Attendance and Application, the various Mists and Errors which often hang before their Minds, thro' the taint and hurry of the Week before, may be something removed, and their Thoughts of their chiefest Interest more happily revived, to promote an useful Impression. But on the contrary, where those poor Creatures have fallen out with such Duty, how common is it for them, when their Time seems to hang upon their Hands, instead of being engaged in the House of God, to be reel- ing about at their darkest Haunts, to throw away upon their Vices on that Day that which they have been gather-
ing.

ing all the Week; and are in little pain what Crying and Starving there is at home, what blast of their Name and Substance, what an Eclipse of all future hope, or into what Straits they are reduced, to pave a way for the most pernicious Attempts; May it not therefore be extremely desirable to oblige such under some Penalty to be more wise in resorting on such Day to some publick Place of Worship: and where the usual Methods to drive such thereto have been attended with Obstructions in the tediousness and burden of their Application, and the particular Act of *twenty Pounds per Month* for absenting, according to the *23^d* of *Elizabeth*, if never so much desired to be apply'd, could no ways affect the meaner kind; would it not be much more practicable and effectual to injoin a Penalty of *twenty Shillings*, easily recoverable by distress, one half, or *Five Shillings* only, to be paid to the Informers, the other to the Poor of the Parish, for every Month's Absence, unless in cases of Sicknes and Disasters, or some disagreeable distance and impassable ways, or other extraordinary Emergency, which may occasion any hindrance. — —

—And whereas in the Acts prohibiting felling on the Lord's Day, the Penalty is so slight in respect to the common Instances thereof, as to keep in very little Awe those who allow themselves in breaking thro' all; and the voluntary contracts which have in some few Places been made
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amongst Shopkeepers and others, under far greater Penalties to forbear any Violation of the Lord's Day by selling, &c. unless in case of Sicknes, &c. and some other unforeseen necessary Occasions which could not be guarded against on the Week-day; how very useful soever they have been in restraining many of those that have been thereby bound under their Hands and Seals, especially where a tie of common Honour and Probity, and much more where an higher Principle prevails; yet have not been so compleatly effectual for want of a more established Authority; these are therefore to wish that a Penalty of *forty Shillings* may be order'd for every Offence in selling, unless under the aforesaid Limitations, upon the Evidence of two or more reputable known Witnesses of the neighbourhood, one quarter thereof or *five Shillings* only, to be given to the Informers, and the rest to the Poor of the Parish. It may seem superfluous to enforce such Penalty, upon the account of the Check that has been already long given to all visible trading on the Lord's Day, in shutting every Shop Door: The least common Reason and Integrity may suggest that the sly and dark violation of the Day in Men's private Dealings must be no small denial to their Character and Custom; since nothing is more certain than that whosoever makes no scruple to play the Hypocrite with God, can't be supposed to be many removes from playing the Knave with

with Man when Occasion serves: and whoever therefore are desirous that their Customers should place a Confidence in their Word, will even in point of worldly Interest need no restraint to make them forbear all such clandestin dealing on such Day, as they would be thought honest Men, and much more where sufficiently apprised of the Obligations of their Duty: Yet what a singular service might such Restraint be, where Thought and Conscience is thrown out of Doors; where nothing but fear of Information from their own Customers or other Spies ties their Hands, and prevents their waiting at home on their Shops to expose themselves to the Hazard thereof, when they should be engaged in the publick Worship, and may put a stop to many ill Presidents of violating divers parts of the sacred Day. And how happy, happy would it be for the Kingdom, if the same Restraint was extended to our publick Houses, not only in point of drawing Liquor in time of Divine Service, which thro' other Prohibitions is in some Measure already abated, but in other parts of the Day, with some small Limitations as to the Sick, Lodgers, &c. where thro' want of some remarkable Penalty, easily to be executed without entirely dissettling them, there is such Liberty taken, especially on the Lord's Day-Evenings, as drowns all the serious Meditations that have been before suggested; and the sacred Day, that is the best and

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chiefest time of all the Week, to promote a Preparation for Eternity, is turned to the very worst, as if instead of being the Lord's Day, it was the Devil's; which is a most deplorable Addition to the heap of publick Guilt, and as sure as there is a God in Heaven, and a future State, will be a most flaming Article at the last Day. Yet if it should be suggested, that the more Men's Liberty is restrained on the Lord's Day, the less will be the Consumption of our Product: I am perswaded none would presume to countenance the abuses of such Day for the sake of a little Paultry and unjustifiable Return, such as wheresoever encouraged, would be the most pernicious canker to eat thro' the greatest heap; and that none could then reasonably desire to glean from the little Earnings of the Poor, thereby to encrease the Number of perishing Families, and to make the Load and Guilt thereof the more mournfully to recoil upon the Nation.

Were these and the like Measures ordered, how easily under God might it lie in the Power of well-disposed Friends in every Place, when thus authorized by publick Authority, to remind others of the Penalties they would incur in case of Defiance: And such can want no Arguments to induce them as to spend their time most usefully in the Divine Exercises of the Day, so to give the
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the most engaging Example to the fore-cited Objects of Pity, that all might heartily join to improve the small remains of the Time and Talents which may be further allowed for their truest Interest.

If our wise Legislature would condescend therefore to be at the trouble of a single Act for the forementioned Regulations ; as it may be no small Embellishment of the present and succeeding Ages, in the degree of Favour which it may please God in general to vouchsafe thereto, where a Change may be attained and continued ; so it would be beyond Measure transporting, if it may be attained with a suitable Effect in those who are particularly concern'd therein ; when having no cause of Confusion at the usual Approaches and Dangers of Tryals, they can look the World in the Face with a safe and undistressed Conscience ; and they are so far from giving occasion of Friends bleeding Hearts and Floods of Tears, to think that such may have been lost for ever ; so far from being look'd upon by them as the Sink and Spawn of humane Nature, that they may be the faithful and delightful Favourites of God and Man, and Heirs, if not of all the little and fading Supplies here, yet of inconceivable and unending Blessings.

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